

AMENDMENTS TO THE C LAIMS

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) A shoe with automatic closure, the shoe being of the type comprising:
a sole with a toe piece to which is attached at least one front attachment element for holding a front part of the foot, and a heel piece to which is connected at least one rear attachment element to hold part of the heel of the foot, the rear attachment element is part of, at least one mobile support that can move from an open position in which the rear attachment element is separated from the part of the heel of the foot;

an upper element and a lower element hinged to each other in one of its ends wherein:

the upper element is hinged with the lower element in one of its ends, in the middle of the sole, in the junction zone between the heel and the rest of the sole, while the other ends of the upper element and lower element, are separated when the shoe is open and near when the shoe is closed;

The shoe it is maintained in a closed position by first reversible retaining-realising means. The first reversible retaining-realising means includes a protrusion, respectively, susceptible of being actuated by the other foot, realising the upper element;

the shoe is maintained in open position by second retaining-realising means.

49. (New) The shoe according to claim 48 wherein the upper and lower elements are hinged to each other by a hinge pin.

50. (New) The shoe according to claim 48 wherein: the mobile support is connected to a shaft, mounted on the lower element, so that it can turn at least a certain angle between the open and close positions, through a lever being fixedly joined to the shaft, having the lever a distal end that slides or rolls on the upper element.

51. (New) The shoe according to claim 50 wherein the upper element includes guide means for the distal end of the lever, the guide means restricting the sideways relative motion

between the distal end and the upper element and allowing a translation movement of the distal end with respect to the upper element.

52. (New) Shoe according to claim 51 wherein: the guide means comprise at least one pair of grooves attached to the upper element or being part of it, in which are slidably inserted corresponding lugs that extend laterally from the distal end of the lever.

53. (New) The shoe according to claim 51 wherein: the distal end is rounded and slides on a contact track of a strong material with a low coefficient of friction with respect to the material of the distal end of the lever.

54. (New) The shoe according to claim 50 wherein: the second retaining-realising means comprise elastic means, which act on the lever to push the mobile support to the open position and to separate the upper and lower elements.

55. (New) The shoe according to claim 50 wherein said first retaining-releasing means comprise a trigger with a tab, this trigger being mounted on the upper element or lower element that it is free to turn about a pin and is pushed by a spring towards a retaining position where said tab engages an anchoring provided in the opposite lower element and upper element when the mobile support is in the closed position.

56. (New) The shoe according to claim 55 characterised in that the trigger includes a surface that can come in contact with a surface of the anchoring, these surfaces being configured and arranged so that the trigger is displaced by the surface against the action of the spring, while the upper element and the lower element approach each other to allow the anchoring to pass in front of the aforementioned tab, and the trigger is released when the mobile support reaches the closed position to allow coupling the tab in the anchoring.

57. (New) The shoe according to claim 55 wherein: the trigger comprises a protrusion that can be accessed from the outside and that can be actuated by the user when the

mobile support is in the closed position to move the trigger against the action of said spring in order to release the coupling of the tab in the anchoring and allow the mobile support to move to the open position by the elastic means.

58. (New) The shoe according to claim 56 wherein: the anchoring mounted on the upper element or the lower element has inclined side ends that in the closed position are inserted in the inclined walls of a cavity that exists in the opposite lower element or upper element where the trigger is housed.

59. (New) The shoe according to claim 49 wherein: the first retaining means comprise elastic means that act on the mechanism to push the mobile support to the closed position and the second retaining means retain the mobile support in the open position against the action of the elastic means, the second retaining means being configured and arranged in relation to the upper and lower elements so that when the upper element is pressed on by the heel of the user's foot to bring it near the lower element, the aforementioned second retaining means are released and with them the aforementioned mobile support moves to said closed position by the action of the elastic means.

60. (New) The shoe according to claim 59 wherein the mobile support can be displaced by the user from the closed position to the open one against the action of the elastic means, during which displacement the upper and lower elements are separated or allowed to separate until the second retaining means are automatically placed in a retaining position for the mobile support in the open position.

61. (New) The shoe according to 48 wherein: the upper element is joined to said toe piece of the sole and the lower element moves downward with respect to it, being hinged through a pin in one of its ends, the one placed between the heel and the rest of the sole.

62. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the hinge between the upper element and the lower element is established by a front hinge, while the hinge between the upper part and the mobile support that is connected to the rear attachment element is established by a central shaft; in addition, said mobile support is hinged to the lower element by the rear shaft, this rear shaft also hinging the retaining-releasing element to the lower element.

63. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 62, wherein: the first retaining-releasing means for keeping the rear attachment element in a closed position are provided with an actuation tab that by pressing against the action of a spring and revolving about the rear shaft moves the tab and releases the rear part of the upper element, raising it by elastic means.

64. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 63, wherein: the releasable retaining means for the open position consist of an elastic element disposed on the front pivoting shaft between the upper element and the lower element.

65. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 64, wherein: the releasable retaining means for the open position consist of an elastic means disposed vertically between the lower piece and the upper piece.

66. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 63, wherein: the releasable retaining means for the open position consist of an elastic means which when compressed acts pushing back the central shaft.

67. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 63, wherein: regardless of the shape of the releasable retaining means for the open position used, the central shaft runs through an oblong orifice through which slides said shaft by the action of the releasable elastic retaining means for the open position.

68. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 63, wherein: alternatively to the upper part having an oblong orifice through which the central shaft runs, it is provided on its sides with corresponding lugs that are housed in elongated or oblong orifices made in the mobile support such that they allow a hinged union of the mobile support and the upper element, the lateral lugs of the upper element sliding in said oblong orifice.

69. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 63, wherein: the rear attachment element is provided with an orifice on each of its sides in which is hinged a hinged part of the front part, this front hinged part being joined to the rear attachment element by a hinge; in addition, the hinged part is also provided with a degree of freedom in its union to the front part through the hinge area.

70. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 63, wherein: the hinged part as shown can be configured in the form of a belt that runs from side to side under guides, and is retains in the hinges so that when the assembly is closed when the hinge moves down it pulls on the belt pressing on the upper and improving its hold.

71. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the retaining-releasing means are placed on the rear end of the upper element anchored on an incut defined in the lower element, with the hinge of the rear attachment element and the upper element above it.

72. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the retaining-releasing means actuated by the trigger is joined to the sole or to the lower element, the rear retaining element having an arm on which acts the elastic means to keep it in this position.

73. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein there is no central shaft on the upper element, being provided with retaining-releasing means actuated by

a trigger, so that joined to the lower part of the upper element is an additional element that does not require a central hinge.

74. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: between the upper element and the rear attachment element a gearwheel is provided by the support to which it is joined, such that the friction in said joint is greatly reduced.

75. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the means for keeping the assembly in the open position are based on using elastic means such as rubber or the like.

76. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein the means for keeping the assembly in the open position are based on using a flexible area in the union between the upper element and the lower element.

77. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the retaining-releasing means are provided with a flexible area at its union to the lower element forming a single piece.

78. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the mobile support is provided at its union with the lower element with a flexible area forming a single piece.

79. (New) The shoe with automatic closure, according to claim 48, wherein: the mobile support is also provided at its front area with a flexible retaining area.